

Application No. 10/009,937

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 15 is amended, claims 1-14 and 16-39 are cancelled, and new claims 40-52 added.

Claim Objection

Claim 5 was objected to because of an informality. By this Amendment, claim 5 has been cancelled. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 8-12 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohsaki et al. By this Amendment, claims 1-4 and 8-12 are cancelled. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 16-29, 32 and 37 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohsaki, et al. in view of Hirosawa. By this Amendment, claims 16-29, 32 and 37 are cancelled. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-7, 13-15, 30, 31, 33-36, 38 and 39 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Application No. 10/009,937

By this Amendment Applicant submits new independent claims 40-42 which include all the limitations of claims 5-7 respectively, including all the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has also added new claims 43 and 44, which include all the limitations of claims 13 and 14, as well as their base claims and any intervening claims. By this Amendment Applicant has amended claim 15 to depend from new claim 43. Applicant also submits new claims 45 and 46, which include all the limitations of claim 30 and 31 respectively, as well as the limitations of their base claims and intervening claims. Further, Applicant has submitted new claims 47-50, which respectively include all the limitations of claims 33-36, their base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has also submitted new claims 51 and 52, which include all the limitations of claims 38 and 39, respectively, as well as the limitations of their base claims and intervening claims.

The Examiner has indicated that the above-referenced claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant submits that new independent claims 40-52 are allowable. In addition, amended claim 15 depends from new claim 43 and is allowable for the same reason as indicated above for claim 43.

Application No. 10/009,937

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul C. Onderick
Registration No. 45,354

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-5766